



Regional News

Chairman's Update – May 2021

The last year and a half have been chaotic in all spheres of life due to the Covid pandemic and there is no foreseeable end in sight in the medium term. Future planned events may be affected as lockdown rules may be inevitable.

Over a dozen events in KZN were cancelled and or postponed making up sailing calendars difficult.

Schools put all sports on hold, and this affected the TSL and junior events. Various Regionals and Nationals were rescheduled to fit in with level lockdown changes.

It has been challenging on many fronts in KZN, namely:

- Finding volunteers is always challenging. If you would like to volunteer, please contact SA Sailing. We need assistance for sail wave scoring of races, Race Officers, mark layers and to assist with running the TSL events and generally improve the quality of running Regionals and Nationals in KZN
- Getting clubs to pay SA Sailing fees has put strain on our balance sheet. On a positive note, membership numbers are generally on the increase at all clubs post-Covid.
- Cut in DSR funding limiting our initiatives for Learn to Sail, taste of sailing courses etc.
- Starting another Sailing District in KZN

Some wins in our sailing environment:

- Lotto allocated funds for transformation and development and roll out plans are in place.
- Sail Africa has been affiliated to SA Sailing and we look forward to working with Sail Africa.
- CMPT opportunities
- Durban Sport Development and Recreation department opportunities
- Resurrect TSL Winter league at PYC. Calendar in progress as well as bringing the boats to PYC from HMYC.
- Diversity and transformation roll-out in KZN. Plans to hold workshops going forward with all our sailing community to improve, create awareness of diversity and transformation in our sport as well as all the challenges ahead.

- PYC Beach site opened and generating events and new members income for their club, and we congratulate Myles and his team on putting an awesome venue back on the sailing map.
- Working with DUT and UKZN to resurrect varsity sailing.
- Building good relationships with DSR thanks to Precious's inputs and tireless efforts
- DSR Budget roll-out activities achieved under limited time constraints due to Covid.
 1. Sailing Instructor courses L 1 and L2 – 10 participants
 2. Safety boat instructors - 17 participants
 3. Taste of Sailing - 63 participants
 4. Learn to Sail Keel boats - 12 participants.
 5. Introduction to Sailing - 16 participants
 6. Sail wave scoring courses – 6.

75th Celebration Event

SA Sailing has sanctioned the 75th Celebration Anniversary all class Nationals event in December 2022.

The aim is to put on the biggest combined all class Nationals this century. Details will be sent out in due course, and we would like to see a great participation from the KZN Sailing community.

Masters survey completed.

There were 115 replies to the survey on in which region and when to hold the Masters event. Thank you to all that participated in the survey and an announcement will be made in due course.

KZN 45 responses	WC 39 responses	NR 27 responses	EC 4 responses
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Thank you to all the sailors that contribute to events, supporting your respective clubs in making our sport great. Especially to Sail Africa - Jackie and her team for the massive contribution, Cornell for getting the youth on the water and Jerome in promoting youth on the Lasers.

Meet KZN sailor: Eugene Nhlanhla Blose

I am a Durban University of Technology (DUT) student doing my last year in Diploma in Nautical Studies and I am also a sailor. I live in Ntuzuma, a small township in Durban and where I am from there are not many sailors. Most of the things that I have achieved in life is because of sailing.



I started to know about sailing when I was in high school in grade 11 in 2015 and we were sailing L26, the students that were doing maritime studies and also nautical sciences got the opportunity to go to Sail Africa and learn more sailing. That was when I fell in love with sailing.

When I enrolled at DUT doing my first year in 2017 I continued sailing L26.

What inspired me to sail is because this is not a popular sport where I am from and I like trying new things but what really fascinates me the most about sailing is when I am on a boat I think about nothing else but the air, the speed of the boat and the sea and at the moment when the race start, I feel alive.

I got my skippers ticket in 2018 and I became an assistant sailing instructor at Sail Africa because I love helping youth to become better sailors and in 2019, I became an instructor for dinghy and multihull and continued to do what I love which is sailing and sharing my knowledge in sailing with youth. In 2021 I became a senior instructor and the custodian of L26 PYC Challenger boat. I am not done, there is a lot I wish to know about sailing, and I am willing to learn and share the information with the youth.

At Durban University of Technology, I joined the sailing club and I got the opportunity to sail dinghies such as TSL 14, Lasers, Topaz etc. In sailing I learned that teamwork makes the dream work and also, I learned that respect is important because if you respect other people, you will get the same respect back.

Some advice I would like to share with the youth regarding sailing is: put yourself out there, you never know everything with sailing and try new things. Do not get satisfied with the position you are in now. Get out of your comfort zone and you will see that the sky is not the limit, you will see past the horizon.

Sail Africa Triumphant in The Vasco da Gama Race



The Vasco da Gama Ocean Race is the oldest coastal ocean race on the South African sailing calendar. Organised by Point Yacht Club, the 25th edition of the race took place from Durban to East London. Traditionally sailed from Durban to Maputo, this is the 50th edition of the race itself. It started a day late on Monday 17th May due to bad weather.

The fleet consisted of both experienced and inexperienced boats and crews. Representing Sail Africa, and new to ocean racing were most of the crew on the L34, *Spirit of Anna Wardley*, skippered by experienced helmsman Nqoba Mswati. The entire crew are graduates of the Sail Africa programme. And not only did they complete the race, but they won the Marlow Trophy for finishing as the first L34. We get a first-hand insight into their race experience below.

Meet the team

Sail Africa started in 2008 with Rosburgh High School as the only school on the programme. Three of the boys, skipper Nqoba Swazi (who was in the very first intake), Thabiso Danca and Praise Barras are products of that initial programme. They started at around 13 to 15 years of age. Nqoba was selected by *Sapinda Rainbow* to do the Clipper Round the World Race and went on to do his Yacht Masters ticket to make his living as a delivery skipper out of Cape Town. He returned to Durban during the pandemic and offered to help out. Praise is a Level 2 instructor working part time for Sail Africa, and Thabiso is the bosun who looks after the boats.

Left to right: Prince Lebohang Mokoteli, Vuyisile Jaca, Nicolene Henkeman, Jackie de Fin, Thabiso Danca, Phathiswa Mbangeni, Nqoba Mswazi, Sunita Henkeman





Prince came out of the DUT (Durban University of Technology) Maritime Studies programme. Prior to COVID Sail Africa was running a sailing programme for DUT students. Often these youth stay on to become instructors for example, and Prince was one.

The girls are involved in a project called “Internationally profiled Girls in Sailing” aimed at empowering young women to stretch their limits. The Henkeman girls learned to sail dinghies at the Sea Cadets but joined Sail Africa to further their sailing as they were offered more opportunities in this sphere. Nicolene skippers the leading Sail Africa L26, a team largely made up of girls. Her sister, Sunita, is on the foredeck, and both are instructors for Sail Africa.

Pat and Vuyie are swimming facilitators at Sail Africa. Both would like to be commercial divers, but the course is so expensive and bursary applications have not been successful to date. As Sail Africa students must be water safe, they both play a valuable role on the programme. Both are very keen sailors. Vuyie came out of the schools programme, whilst Pat just arrived one day to join in, and her keen attitude led to her being offered many opportunities.

Ready, set, go

Getting an ‘around the cans’ boat ready for an ocean race takes a village. “We have been overwhelmed by the kindness of the sailing community and we are incredibly grateful for all the assistance we have received,” said the team.

They continued: “We are very grateful to our Chairman, Nigel Milln and Operations Director, Jackie de Fin, who encouraged the team to take part, and allowed the non-profit foundation to allocate the funds to getting the boat ready for this race”.



‘Chef’ Vuyi Jaka



Thabiso Danca with the sail repair kit



Praise Baras trying on gloves



Phathiswa Mbangeni helping with the preparations.

What the crew said about the race

For first-time sailors, doing an overnight ocean race can be very daunting and frightening. Hearing about their experience first-hand is both uplifting and a reminder of what a huge undertaking this was.

Nqoba Mswazi, instructor at Sail Africa, helmsman

“The idea was to take seven crew from Sail Africa (instructors and students) who have never done a Vasco Race before. People who want to pursue sailing as a career – so it was four girls and four guys including myself. I have a

lot of offshore sailing experience as I've done a Clipper Round the World Race, finishing first in the 2017/2018 edition. For the crew, I was there to lead them and take them out of their comfort zone, from zero to hero. Vasco isn't an easy race to do. It was perfect timing that Sail Africa had a boat for us to use.

"The race was a success with a non-experienced crew sailing at night. I hope whatever they learnt on the race they can use it and get to share the challenges and the excitement of the race with others. I have done my job and I'm happy we crossed the finish line. And we won the trophy for the 1st L34 over the line! I'm looking forward to the next Vasco 2022."

Prince Mokoteli, navigator (DUT graduate)

"Four years ago it was just a dream for me to actually participate in such an event. And then when I actually sailed the race it was not only an achievement for me, but for everyone who has contributed to my sailing career. The race was not only a physical race, but also a mental race. As the navigator onboard I had to make sure we were on the correct bearing at all times. I enjoyed the sunrise in the mornings more than anything. A scary moment for me was when the wind was gusting up to 40 knots at night and the swells were huge, but it was just mother nature singing. I would do the race 100 more times if another opportunity comes my way. This is one less thing on my bucket list."

Sunita Henkeman (age 21), senior instructor and day skipper at Sail Africa

"The Vasco Da Gama Ocean Race was very new for me. Something I thought that I would never achieve until I did it. This experience was hard work and tiring. Trying to sail in a straight line at 2 in the morning was not easy, but it was worth it. I've learned a lot from this experience, and I would love to keep learning and moving forward with future races."

Thabiso Danca (age 24), assistant instructor and day skipper at Sail Africa

"My best moments were the times when we woke up in the mornings, seeing the sunrise and knowing that we were getting closer to where we were going. Night sailing was the scariest moment for me because I had to drive for one of my shifts and it was really dark. Finishing the race meant everything to me because everyone was waiting for us, and they were proud that we had made it all in one piece. I did this race because I wanted to push myself, but I entered an environment that I'm not used to so I can gain more experience.

"I would do it anytime so I can get a step closer to where I'd like to be with regards to my sailing career."

Vuyi Jaca (age 23) swim instructor

Vuyi is an orphan and is trying to get sponsored to be a commercial diver. Sail Africa is helping her become a swim instructor.

"It was an honour to be part of the Vasco da Gama race, which is celebrating 50 years. When I received the news asking me if I would like to be part of the race, I couldn't contain myself because I was telling everyone the exciting news about the race. Being a part of the crew was the greatest highlight. On the start line I was both focused and having fun at the same time. I was looking forward to the race and my watch during our time at sea since we usually do inshore and offshore races but not overnight races.

"So, it was indeed a great experience for me, all thanks to people who made it possible for us, the sponsors and not forgetting our home, Sail Africa. I am in the cockpit on the boat. I've never trimmed the big sails but I managed, even though at night it can get hectic when the swells are big, and you can get stuck in the current for hours. But the sunset and sunrise were the best moments. During my watch at night the stars and moon look amazing and the ocean also sparkles with phosphorus. The big swells can be scary at night but during the day when the boat is surfing it is the nicest feeling you can ever imagine. Getting closer to the land and getting through the finish line was like I was dreaming and was a joy to my heart and happiness to the team. I see myself doing another Vasco if I were to be given another chance."

Praise Baras, Sail Africa instructor

"Firstly, thank you to everyone who made it possible for us to be part of the Vasco Race. To be honest we really learnt a lot as a team through good teamwork. And we learnt that it is very different sailing the ocean in the day and night. There was a bad moment at the start, we got stuck in current, but we thought 'let's get this boat down to East London', and once we got through it, it really boosted us. We could see the enthusiasm, and all the preparation we had done really helped us. What we liked most about the race was the learning – it wasn't that easy most of the time, but it was worth it. Learning about the cockpit and trimming the sails of a big boat and steering a big boat day and night in cool and warm temperatures were our biggest achievements. It wasn't nice seeing crew getting seasick, and then we were one or two men down, but we had to learn how to cope in situations where things don't go according to plan. Definitely I'll be doing it again and again, as long as there is an opportunity. I recommend to others who get this opportunity to use it wisely because you do learn a lot when you are out there. The best feeling ever is seeing the finish line and crossing it. And then coming in with the other boats welcoming us was wonderful too".



At the start



Results (Corrected Time)

	Yacht Name	Handicap	Skipper	Model	Sail No.	Start Date and Time	Finish Date and Time	Elapsed Time	Total Seconds	Corrected Seconds
1	Phezulu	1.0965	Nigel Milln	Fast 42	SA 3782	17/05/21 06:00:00	18/05/21 20:03:55	38:03:55	137035	150258.88
2	Nemesis	1.0737	Sigi Bailes	Fast 42	SA 2366	17/05/21 06:00:00	18/05/21 21:42:25	39:42:25	142945	153480.05
3	Mafuta	0.9323	Robin Hulley	Bavaria 36	SA 3455	17/05/21 06:00:00	19/05/21 07:26:52	49:26:52	178012	165960.59
4	Majimoto	0.9907	Jon Marshall	Farr 38	SA 1885L	17/05/21 06:00:00	19/05/21 04:39:20	46:39:20	167960	166397.97
5	Magic	0.9660	Peter Channing	Baltic 42	SA 721	17/05/21 06:00:00	19/05/21 06:12:24	48:12:24	173544	167643.5
6	Chinook	1.0083	Neville Bransby	Farr 38	SA 688	17/05/21 06:00:00	19/05/21 06:55:09	48:55:09	176109	177570.7
7	Spirit of Anna Wardley	0.9356	Nqoba Mswati	L34	029	17/05/21 06:00:00	19/05/21 11:18:14	53:18:14	191894	179536.03
8	Tam Tam	1.0152	Jasper van der Westhuizen	Simonis 35	SA 3810	17/05/21 06:00:00	19/05/21 07:30:07	49:30:07	178207	180915.75
9	Adios	1.0502	John Tudehope	Fast 42	SA 2255	17/05/21 06:00:00	19/05/21 06:36:22	48:36:22	174982	183766.1
1	Dual Flyer	1.0000	Brad Rayson	S'Cape 40	S40	17/05/21 06:00:00	19/05/21 04:10:06	46:10:06	166206	166206

ORC Division

1	Phezulu
2	Nemesis
3	Mafuta
4	Majimoto
5	Magic
6	Chinook
7	Spirit of Anna Wardley
8	Tam Tam
9	Adios

Multihull

1	Dual Flyer
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Results (Trophies)

Barens Trophy	1st on Line Honours		Phezulu
CASA Salver	1st KZN boat over the line	ORC Racing Fleet	Phezulu
Richie MacDonald Trophy	1st PYC boat over the line	ORC Racing Fleet	Phezulu
RNYC Rescue Trophy	1st RNYC boat over the line	ORC Racing Fleet	Dual Flyer
Eastern Cape Vasco da Gama Race Floating Trophy	1 st Eastern Cape boat over the line	ORC & PHRF Racing Fleets	Nemesis
Marlow Trophy	1st L34 over the line	L34 Class	Spirit of Anna Wardley
CORRECTED TIME TROPHIES			
Wilbur Ellis Trophy	1st on Corrected Time	ORC Racing Fleet	Phezulu
NSRI Trophy	2nd on Corrected Time	ORC Racing Fleet	Nemesis
Premier's Cup	1st KZN boat on corrected time	ORC Racing Fleet	Phezulu

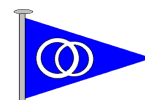
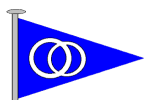
MULTIHULL TROPHIES

R&G Trophy	1st Multihull across the line	Multihull Racing Fleet	Dual Flyer
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SPECIAL TROPHIES

Transvaal Yacht Club Interclub Trophy	Interclub trophy awarded to the yacht club which performs the best in the race, taking into account the results of the first three boats over the line from any one club.		Point Yacht Club
Ken Smith Trophy	Good Comradeship Award *		Conrad Bennett
Bentley Nuttall Trophy	Navigator of the overall winning boat on Corrected Time (ORC)		Mike Surgeson
Choose Life Youth Trophy	1st Youth under 25 on ORC Corrected Time		Chris James (Phezulu)

Upcoming events:



ISLAND SAILING CLUB

STRAY CAT REGATTA

FUN MULTIHULL / MONOHULL REGATTA IN DURBAN

Open class fast monohulls / separate start

12+13 June 2021

Any multihull may enter if it floats and it is a cat its welcome

Halcat, Hobie 16, Hobie 14, Darts, Paper tigers, etc

Island Sailing Club Durban harbour protected waters



For further details:

Paul Ridsdale 0824955186

plantsaplenty@worldonline.co.za

Island SPIRIT (Green juice)

Great Hospitality

Pub Open Whole Weekend

Breakfast and Braai packs available

Free lunch on sandbank

FUN REGATTA

